

Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes from Wednesday, January 15, 2014

The chair, Mike Musgrove, called the meeting of the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 5:36p.m. The following were present:

Commission Members: Maddie Beserra, Mat deGraaf, Sally High, Scott Miller, Mike Musgrove, John Perea., and Ed Simpson. John Steinert and Mike Le Roux were absent.

Members of the Public: Ed Fincher, Christine Funk, Jennie Green, Kathie Lattin and Matt Roane

Staff: Tom Carosello and Jim Miller

A motion was received from Commr. Perea that the minutes of the December 18, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting be approved as read. The motion received a second from Commr. Simpson and passed with unanimous approval.

It was suggested that the agenda be adjusted to accommodate presentations from members of the public in attendance. It was agreed to discuss New Business first.

New Business

Jennie Green, representing the Town Tourism Committee, initiated a discussion of the possibility of placing a proposal for a zip-line on Reservoir Hill on the April ballot. She stated that members of her committee thought that such an amenity would be an asset to the community. Commr. Musgrove asked if private vendors had been allowed to conduct their business on Town property in the past, and, if so, under what contractual circumstances. A discussion of the pros and cons of the idea resulted in the scheduling of a work session on the issue 5:30pm the following Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at Town Hall. Then a brief conversation resulted in a motion to retain Mike Musgrove as the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2014 and for meeting times and location to remain as has been in the past. Commissioner Miller asked to be allowed to relinquish his vice-chair position, and the motion, from Commr. Perea, seconded by Commr. Simpson and approved with unanimous consent, was to appoint Matt deGraaf as vice-chair for the year.

Old Business

Trustee Kathie Lattin distributed handouts to the Commissioners which provided information about the proposed Rec Center. She asked if members of the Commission had opinions or questions to share on the proposal. Questions were asked and a show of hands indicated unanimous support for the idea from the members of the Commission. Tom Carosello then stated that the failure to obtain grant funding for the Sixth St. pedestrian bridge at the end of last year had prompted the Town Council to request the re-submission of the grant application in the first 2014 GOCO application round. That meant that the Skaters Coalition for Concrete, which had hoped to obtain Town support for a grant for the second phase of the skate park, would have to wait until at least the late summer cycle to approach GOCO with a formal request for funding. After that Christine Funk spoke of the success of Friends of Reservoir Hill in raising funds for the observation platform, stating that over \$12,000 had been raised. She added that the Friends hoped to have the platform in place before Pagosa Folk and Bluegrass Festival in early June. She also requested support for a proposal to use a dying ponderosa pine that had been removed as a hazard tree by the Parks crew for the construction of large carved benches to be deployed throughout the parks system. The Commission thought it was a good idea.

Department Head Reports

Tom Carosello stated that the 7-8 basketball had concluded and 9-10/11-12 basketball was under way with over 100 participants. He added that adult basketball registration would begin soon and that the Rec Department would try to get sufficient gym time to conduct the youth volleyball program in the spring. He asked for suggestions for programs to augment the successful summer science and outdoor studies program for children that had debuted last year. Orienteering and outdoor survival skills were among some of the ideas presented. Jim Miller said that the Louck's Ditch was reopened, that another whitewater feature was likely to be constructed in the next month, and asked the Commissioners to consider a proposal he intended to bring before them at their next meeting to raise the fees charged for use of the parks for events, especially the new Gazebo being reassembled on Reservoir Hill.

Other Business

Commr. High stated that she hoped to have a major announcement of funding for the Geothermal Greenhouse Project at the next meeting. She was optimistic that grant funding was imminent.

At 7:10pm a motion to adjourn was received from Commr. Perea. It received a second from Cmmr. deGraaf and passed unanimously. The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and recreation Commission will be at 5:30pm on February 12, 2014 at the Pagosa Springs Town Hall.

Mike Musgrove, Chair

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